1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33) 1936 SR9 Carib SR9

and as far as Bede's the influence of the tide is felt. The surface 133
of the land rises gradually southwestward to the low divide which
marks the Venezuelan frontier. The river country may be divided
into an upper and lower part at the Great Falls at Towakaima,
which have hitherto formed a barrier to tent boat navigation and
consequently to outside penetration of any extent. On the lower
Barama three trading posts or "bush shops" are located, respec-
tively, at Kokerite, Massawini, and Towakaima, serving the In-
dians and the handful of negro prospectors who roam the bush in
search of gold. Throughout the area game and fish are usually [136]
plentiful.

* * * * * * *

I owe thanks in many quarters for personal assistance. Among 122
them, I wish to mention the following: the Division of Anthro-
pology of Harvard University, which financed the expedition;
Professors R. B. Dixon, E. A. Hooton and A. M. Tozzer, who not
only taught me most of the anthropology which I knew before
going to Guiana, but who also advised and encouraged me during
and following the period of field work; His Excellency Sir Edward
Denham, K.B.E., G.C.M.G., at whose invitation the field work in
British Guiana was undertaken and who assisted me in many
ways in both a personal and an official capacity while I was in the
colony; the late Dr. W. E. Roth, who placed the results of his wide
experience and his intimate knowledge of the country as well as
his continued personal efforts freely at my disposal; the Honor-
able John Mullin, Commissioner of Lands and Mines of British
Guiana, who provided me with specially drawn maps from the
archives of his department as well as making arrangements about
tent boat, motor, and camping equipment which were generously
furnished me by the government; Mr. S. Morgan Hills of Hartford,
Connecticut (First Lieutenant, U. S. Army Reserve), whose
hearty companionship enlivened the isolation of the jungle and
who, through his practical knowledge of camp life, relieved me of
much of the detail of expedition management during the last three
months in the field; Alec William, a Carib Indian, an intelligent [115]
interpreter, an expert woodsman and boatman, and a loyal friend;
Henry Ewing, whose appetising menus dispelled the fatigue of
many a hard day and whose loyalty, practical knowledge of bush

1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33) 1936 SR9 Carib SR9

a mile and a half below the Great Falls, is the "shop," or trading post, owned by Chee-a-Fat, a Chinese man of business whose base of operations is at Aranka on the Barama River. Aranka is twenty-nine and three-fourths miles distant from Towakaima via the now dilapidated government trail, which was built to connect the two rivers during the hey-dey of the gold rush. At the time of my study, the shop at Towakaima was in charge of one James Cook, a negro, and it boasted a very small and depleted stock of staple goods. The other "foreign" resident of Towakaima is Mr. H. Pestano who lives on his land grant of five acres, leased from the government. Mr. Pestano is a literate Portuguese Creole, formerly residing on the Berbice Coast. Mrs. Pestano, the daughter of a negro prospector and a Carib woman, is acquainted with the contemporary cultures of both of her ancestral stocks. Both the Pestanos are thoroughly versed in the ways of the Caribs and well liked by them. Many of Mrs. Pestano's relatives live in the Barama settlements. To the Pestanos I owe my thanks for valuable assistance in my efforts to understand the Carib culture.

Towakaima, in the days of the gold rush, was the station of a government warden, and the ruins of his house and office now lie, barely discernible among the ravages of wood ants and tropical decay, in a rank second growth of jungle near Mr. Pestano's present wattle and thatch house. During the period of mining activity, ended about 1912, Towakaima was apparently a vigorous outpost of civilization. I am told that in highwater Sproston's launch made regular trips up the Barama to this point, and that the now decrepit trail to Aranka, on the more easily navigable Barama, was fit for wagon traffic. About 1910, we hear, the firm of Farnum and Smyth had a shop for a period of a year on the Anamu, and regularly hauled tent boats over the falls by means of rollers and rope and tackle. These facts are mentioned in order to give a complete picture of the possible external influences which the inhabitants of Sawari may have felt. Even during the period of Towakaima's efflorescence, however, Sawari appears to have remained off the beaten path, still a day's walk through the bush beyond Farnum and Smyth's shop. And, so far as the Indians and other informants could say, white men had never visited Sawari previous to my appearance there, and it has been relatively free from outside contact. Nevertheless,